(b) Against the target of covering 2,224 villages in the State during the year 2000-2001, 1,264 villages were provided with telecom facility. Out of remaining 7,894 uncovered villages in the State, 3,947 villages are planned to be covered by satellite terminals whereas remaining villages are planned to be covered by WLL technology and land-lines from the nearest exchanges. It is plan to cover all the remaining villages of Uttaranchal State by the end of the year 2002 subject to the availability of funds.

Receipt of Anthrax Letter

†460. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :(a) whether various State Governments of the country and many persons including many Ministers of Central and State Governments have received letters envelopes packets containing anthrax powder;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the action taken by Government to stop this tendency and what concrete steps have been taken against the culprits to check such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) :

(a) As far as the information available with the Minisry of Communiations is concerned, there is no case of the letter/envelope/packet containing anthrax powder received or delivered.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) So far there is no confirmed case of letters containing Anthrax. So the question of action against the guilty does not arise.

Sanchar Kranti

†461. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cellular telepone service has been started after declaration of the Sanchar Kranti in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.